

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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*Published by the Commission on Public Relations
of the National Christian Council of Japan*

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ABLE CODE : JAPACONCIL, ADDRESS : CHRISTIAN CENTER, 2,4-CHOME GINZA, TOKYO, JAPAN

Subscription Rates : Japan ¥700; Foreign (Sea mail) \$2.00; (Air mail) \$3.50.

No. 122

April 15, 1958

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ICU: A SPECIAL REPORT

The International Christian University, located in the suburbs of Tokyo, has made further progress toward the goal of becoming a first-rate Christian graduate school based on a broad Liberal Arts undergraduate program. The second class of 121 was graduated from the college in March, and placement of these graduates is again about 100%, in spite of a decrease in openings in many fields. Twenty-two of these have gone into teaching and social work, and several of the class are going on for graduate study.

The new freshman class of 167 students admitted on April 7 was selected from a total of 2474 applicants, and consists of 38½% girls and 61½% boys. During the last year the students have come from all the prefectures of Japan, and from the United States, Canada, Mexico, England, Denmark, Hong-kong, Taiwan, Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, and India. The total enrollment at present is 683.

The second class will be admitted to the Graduate School of Education in April. The Graduate School has just received Ministry of Education approval for two new programs, in Philosophy of Education, and Teaching Methods in Science.

Several new buildings have been added to the campus: a new dormitory with double rooms for senior girls; Sibley House with apartments for married graduate students and single rooms for woman graduate students, and the Diffendorfer Memorial Hall with Religious Center, auditorium, bookstore and postoffice, snack bar and barber shop, and student activity rooms. Practically all girls can be housed on campus now, but there is a great need for additional dormitories for boys.

The library has increased to over 81,000 volumes, and it is hoped plans can soon be started for a separate library building.

The faculty presently numbers 54 full-time staff members from instructor up, including 23 non-Japanese, with additional 42 part-time lecturers.

As for the farm, the dairy herd of 56 head continues to provide milk for all campus needs, while the 56 swine are bringing in a profit.

The religious program under the leadership of Dr. Masumi Toyotome has been more vital and active than could possibly be shown on paper with facts and figures. Forty-one students have been baptized during the past year, and the missions program of the ICU Church has reached out to Hokkaido and Kyushu and to Korea and the Philippines. The students supported and staffed two evangelistic caravans to outlying districts of Japan last summer, and are planning to send two more this summer. There have been numerous retreats and Bible study groups and an extensive Sunday School program for local children, all carried on by the students.

The University has had warm and close cooperation with denominational groups in America and Canada, and with other Christian Schools in Japan, and looks forward with their help to another year of progress and pioneering in Christian higher education in Japan.

GROUNDBREAKING FOR STONE MEMORIAL

Groundbreaking ceremonies for Stone Memorial Hall were held on April 14 at Tsurukawa near Tokyo. The \$22,000 building, to accommodate offices, classrooms, and a library, will expand the facilities of the Christian Rural Service and Training Center of the United Church of Christ. Ground was also broken for the building of a new women's dormitory at the Center.

Stone Memorial Hall is named in honor of Alfred E. Stone, who died in the Toya Maru sinking in September, 1954. Dr. Stone was a missionary evangelist and teacher of the United Church of Canada, and was the first president of the Rural Center. He had served for 25 years in this country. His life was dedicated to the evangelization of rural Japan.

Ground was broken at Tsurukawa on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Rural Center, formerly located at Hino. Attending the ceremonies were Dr. Takeshi Muto, Moderator of the United Church of Christ, Dr. Michio Kozaki, Chairman of the National Christian Council, the Reverend E. Frank Carey, representing the United Church of Canada and the Interboard Committee for Christian Work in Japan, and the Reverend Charles Germany, field secretary of the Interboard Committee.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR SHRINES?

The National Christian Council is increasingly concerned about freedom of religion and about the separation of church and state as guaranteed by the national Constitution.

Certain conservative groups in the nation are trying to enhance the status of Shinto shrines such as Meiji and Ise that have had historic ties with the Imperial Family. These groups are pressing for legislation that will authorize government support for these particular shrines. A special committee of the Diet (national legislative body) is investigating the proposal. The National Christian Council has asked the Reverend Zenda Watanabe, noted Christian leader, to take part in these hearings.

Some months ago children from a Kobe school were taken to the Grand Shrine at Ise, and were instructed to bow twice before the shrine and to clap in the traditional act of Shinto worship. (See ACTIVITY NEWS Number 118, February 1, 1958). The Hyogo Prefecture Christian Council lodged a protest. Since then it is reported that school authorities in Kobe have issued a statement admitting their error in connection with this incident.

BISHOPS TO ATTEND LAMBETH CONFERENCE

Four bishops of the Japan Episcopal Church plan to attend the Lambeth Conference of World Anglicanism to be held in London on July 7-August 7, 1958. The delegates from Japan will be the Right Reverends Hinsuke Yashiro, Presiding Bishop, Kazuyoshi Ueda, Hokkaido, Hidetoshi Nose, South Tokyo, and Yasuo Kurose, Chubu.

This Lambeth Conference, meeting after an interval of ten years, will include 400 delegates from Episcopal Churches around the world. The relation of the Anglican Communion to the ecumenical movement will be a major topic of discussion. In particular, the delegates will discuss the projected union of the Church of England and the (Presbyterian) Church of Scotland, and the relationship of Anglican Churches to the United Churches of South and North India.

The Japanese bishops will visit a large number of churches in various countries as they journey to and from the Lambeth meeting.

CHRISTIAN SOCIAL WITNESS: OUTSTANDING LEADERS TO VISIT JAPAN
I EDUARD HEIMANN

Dr. Eduard Heimann, of the New School for Social Research in New York, will arrive in Japan May 29. An internationally known Christian economist, Dr. Heimann is coming under the auspices of Tokyo Union Theological Seminary and the Social Committee of the United Church of Christ. He will lecture at the Seminary and at various institutions in and around Kyoto.

A highlight of Dr. Heimann's visit will be a nation-wide conference for Japanese church leaders at Amagi-sanso on June 9-13. Leaders in social witness and occupational evangelism, professors at United Church-related schools, and delegates from the Lutheran and Episcopal Churches will be among those taking part in this gathering. It is expected that about 100 leaders will be in attendance.

The conference theme is to be "Church and Society". Dr. Heimann will give two main lectures, "Ideologies of Social Change and the Christian", and "The Economics of Capitalism and Social Policy". Conference members are urged to read in advance the professor's book, Freedom and Order, available in Japanese translation.

Altogether, Dr. Heimann has written some nine books in German and English, including Communism, Fascism and Democracy and History of Economic Doctrines, in addition to the conference text. He was associated with Paul Tillich in the Christian Socialist movement in Germany, and has contributed in many ways to Christian thought and action in the field of social ethics. He came to Christianity out of a background of Judaism, and is a man of deep faith and unusual personal experience.

II DAISUKE KITAGAWA

Another important leader in the field of Christian social witness will spend the month of May in Japan. He is Dr. Daisuke Kitagawa, secretary of the Department of Church and Society of the World Council of Churches in Geneva,

Dr. Kitagawa is touring a number of Asian countries, and will conduct four conferences during his stay in Japan: at Sendai, Tokyo, Okayama, and in the Kwansai area. Those taking part in these gatherings will be asking the question, what should the Christian Church say and do about such critical problems as overpopulation, poverty, the feudal pattern in rural life, and the special problem of those involved in small, family-sized industry in this country?

The National Christian Council is arranging Dr. Kitagawa's program in Japan. The visiting leader is a graduate of St. Paul's University, Tokyo, and of General Seminary, New York. He was at one time pastor of an Episcopal Church in Minneapolis prior to assuming his responsibilities with the World Council.

AUDIO VISUAL CONFERENCE THIS SUMMER

At least sixty delegates and observers are expected at the second All-Asia Conference on Mass Communication, to be held at the Christian Audio Visual Center (AVACO) in Tokyo, August 2-6. In addition to fourteen Asian countries, Germany, England, and the United States will be represented by observers. Delegates will have an opportunity to exchange information and techniques. There will be a discussion of strategy for the more effective use of mass communication media in Christian evangelism throughout Asia.

The first conference of this kind was held in Bangkok during March, 1955.

AVACO PROMOTIONAL FILM READY

Songs of the Heart, a movie telling the story of AVACO, with English soundtrack, was completed on April 10. Twenty-two minutes in length, this black-and-white 16 mm. film describes the work and opportunities facing AVACO today. It is available for \$35.00, or print cost. It is hoped that this movie will be of use to American and Canadian churches during the closing months of the Japan study year.

NEW FILMS FOR AVACO

AVACO is in the process of ordering a number of movies--both new and used--to be added to its rental library:

--Several prints of the film King of Kings, without English titles.

--"Living Christ" series, in color, produced by Cathedral Films, not previously released for use overseas.

--3 of the new Book of Acts series produced for the Southern Baptists by Family Films.

--Monanga, a color film concerning medical missions in Africa.

--A black-and-white film biography of Helen Keller.

--New prints of the Moody "Sermons in Science" series.

--A number of used films in the field of stewardship education and missionary education.

HELP THE INDONESIANS !

Japanese Protestants are being encouraged to support a drive for the relief of persons victimized by the present crisis in Indonesia.

The National Christian Council, meeting in executive session on April 8, voted to extend this appeal to all affiliated churches. The call for help came in a message from the Reverend Alan Brash, Inter-church Aid Secretary of the World Council of Churches. The East Asia Christian Council, of which the Japan National Christian Council recently became a member, is co-sponsoring the relief drive. Contributions will be handled by Japan Church World Service.

Civil war in Indonesia has brought great hardship upon the people of the islands, many of whom are Christian. "By the beginning of June," Mr. Brash wrote, "it is estimated that Java and some neighboring islands will be...half a million tons of rice short of their minimum requirements. The Indonesian Council of Churches has requested...600 tons of rice and the equivalent of \$10,000 for the purchase of medical supplies... Even a token response will mean a great deal to our brethren in Indonesia."

The cost of rice in Indonesia is reported to be four times as high as it was few months ago. Restricted harvests and internal inflation are largely responsible. Due to political difficulties the Indonesian government does not have enough funds to import necessary food supplies. Many Christian hospitals are now unable to purchase medical supplies because of inflated costs.

